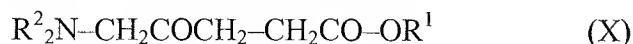


CLAIM LISTING:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt of a 5-aminolevulinic acid (5- ALA) ester with an acid which has a pKa of about 5 or less, wherein either said acid is nitric acid, and said 5-ALA ester is a compound of formula X:



wherein R^1 represents a straight-chained C_{1-6} alkyl group substituted by an aryl group, and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight-chained, branched or cyclic alkyl group which may optionally be interrupted by one or more $-O-$, $-NR^3-$, $-S-$ or $-PR^3-$ groups; and

R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

or said acid is a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative and said 5-ALA ester is a compound of formula XI:



wherein R^4 represents a straight-chained C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by an aryl group, and

R^5 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight-chained, branched or cyclic alkyl group which may optionally be interrupted by one or more $-O-$, $-NR^6-$, $-S-$ or $-PR^6-$ groups; and

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid is nitric acid and, in formula (X), each R^2 represents a hydrogen atom.

4. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1 or claim 3, wherein said acid is nitric acid and, in formula (X), R^1 is a benzyl or substituted benzyl group.

5. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid is nitric acid and said compound of formula (X) is 5-ALA benzyl ester or 5-ALA 4-methylbenzyl ester.

6. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid is nitric acid and said compound of formula (X) is 5-ALA benzyl ester.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid is a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative.
9. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 8, wherein the acid is an acid of formula I:



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or aryl group.

10. (Original) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 9, wherein R is optionally substituted phenyl or methyl.
11. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein each R^5 represents a hydrogen atom.
12. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 9, wherein R^4 is a benzyl or substituted benzyl group.
13. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 9 which is a sulfonic acid addition salt of 5-ALA methyl ester, 5-ALA hexyl ester, 5-ALA benzyl ester, or 5-ALA 4-methylbenzyl ester.
14. (Original) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 9 which is a sulfonic acid addition salt of 5-ALA methyl ester, 5-ALA hexyl ester or 5-ALA benzyl ester.
15. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14, wherein said acid is naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, ethane-1,2-disulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid,

methanesulfonic acid, dodecylsulfonic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, or (+)-camphor-10-sulfonic acid.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 8, wherein said acid is pharmaceutically acceptable.

20. (Previously presented) A process for preparing an acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising reacting a 5-aminolevulinic acid ester as defined in claim 1 with the corresponding acid as defined in claim 1.

21. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of an acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, said process either comprising the reaction of 5-aminolevulinic acid, or an esterifiable derivative thereof, with an alkanol of formula R^1OH or an ester-forming derivative thereof in the presence of nitric acid, wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1, or comprising the reaction of 5-aminolevulinic acid, or an esterifiable derivative thereof, with an alkanol of formula R^4OH or an ester-forming derivative thereof in the presence of a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative, wherein R^4 is as defined in claim 1.

22. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of an acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising:

- (i) contacting a solution comprising a hydrochloride salt of a 5-ALA ester of formula (X) or formula (XI) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are as defined in claim 1, with a basic anion exchange resin;
- (ii) optionally removing said resin; and
- (iii) mixing the resulting solution with a solution comprising either nitric acid, if the ester is of formula (X), or a sulfonic acid or sulfonic acid derivative, if the ester is of formula (XI).

23. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of an acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising:

- (i) reacting a hydrochloride salt of a 5-ALA ester of formula (X) or formula (XI) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are as defined in claim 1, with a silver salt either of nitric acid, if the ester is of formula (X), or of a sulfonic acid or sulfonic acid derivative, if the ester is of formula (XI) in a solvent in which AgCl is substantially insoluble; and
- (ii) optionally separating AgCl from the resulting salt.
24. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt obtainable either by contacting a 5-ALA ester of formula (X) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are as defined in claim 1, with nitric acid, or by contacting a 5-ALA ester of formula (XI) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are as defined in claim 1, with a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative.
25. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt obtainable by a process comprising either reacting a 5-aminolevulinic acid ester of formula (X) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are as defined in claim 1, with nitric acid or by reacting a 5-aminolevulinic acid of formula (XI) as defined in claim 1, wherein R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are as defined in claim 1, with a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative.
26. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1, together with at least one pharmaceutical carrier or excipient.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Cancelled)
30. (Previously presented) A product comprising an acid addition salt of a 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) ester with an acid which has a pKa of about 5 or less, wherein said acid is a sulfonic acid, a sulfonic acid derivative, or nitric acid, and wherein said 5-ALA ester is a compound of formula (XII):
- $$R^8_2N-CH_2COCH_2-CH_2CO-OR^7 \quad (XII)$$
- wherein R^7 represents a straight-chained C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by an aryl group, and
- R^8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight-

chained, branched or cyclic alkyl group which may optionally be interrupted by one or more $-O-$, $-NR^9-$, $-S-$ or $-PR^9-$ groups; and

R^9 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, together with at least one surface-penetration assisting agent, and optionally one or more chelating agents as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in treating disorders or abnormalities of external or internal surfaces of the body which are responsive to photochemotherapy.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein the acid has a pK_a of about 3 or less.

36. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^1 represents a C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by an aryl group.

37. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 36, wherein the C_{1-2} alkyl substituent is phenyl.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 11, wherein R^4 represents a straight-chained C_{1-6} alkyl or a C_{1-2} alkyl substituted by an aryl group.

40. (Previously presented) An acid addition salt as claimed in claim 39, wherein the C_{1-2} alkyl is substituted by phenyl.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the reaction is with an alkanol of formula R^1OH in the presence of nitric acid, wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1, or

with an alkanol of formula R^4OH in the presence of a sulfonic acid or a sulfonic acid derivative, wherein R^4 is as defined in claim 1.

43. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the acid addition salt is the acid addition salt of claim 8.
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Cancelled)
46. (Cancelled)
47. (Cancelled)
48. (Cancelled)
49. (Cancelled)
50. (Cancelled)
51. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 13 or 14 wherein the acid is naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, ethane-1,2-disulfonic acid, dodecylsulfonic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonic acid, or (+)-camphor-10-sulfonic acid.
52. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the methane sulfonate salt of methyl ALA ester.
53. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the methane sulfonate salt of hexyl ALA ester.
54. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the methane sulfonate salt of benzyl ALA ester.
55. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the toluene sulfonate salt of methyl ALA ester.

56. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the toluene sulfonate salt of hexyl ALA ester.
57. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 8 that is the toluene sulfonate salt of benzyl ALA ester.
58. (Previously presented) The acid addition salt of claim 1 that is the nitric acid salt of benzyl ALA ester.
59. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid is naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, ethane-1,2-disulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, dodecylsulfonic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, or (+)-camphor-10-sulfonic acid.
60. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the methane sulfonate salt of methyl ALA ester.
61. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the methane sulfonate salt of hexyl ALA ester.
62. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the methane sulfonate salt of benzyl ALA ester.
63. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the toluene sulfonate salt of methyl ALA ester.
64. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the toluene sulfonate salt of hexyl ALA ester.
65. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the toluene sulfonate salt of benzyl ALA ester.
66. (NEW) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein the acid addition salt is the nitrate salt of benzyl ALA ester.